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NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, JUSTICE, AND AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

B-349-C RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

November 9, 1983

### Background Memorandum for Hearings

#### DRUG INTERDICTION: INTELLIGENCE SHARING

Monday, November 14, 1:00 p.m., 2203 Rayburn HOB  
Wednesday, November 16, 9:30 a.m., 2247 Rayburn HOB

This memorandum is prepared pursuant to Rule 2 of the Government Operations Committee and provides required information for the subcommittee's hearings concerning the sharing of intelligence for the purpose of interdicting drug smugglers.

#### I. Purpose of the Hearing

These two days of hearings are intended to open the subcommittee's review of the performance of the intelligence community in support of drug interdiction. The lead agency for this purpose is the Drug Enforcement Administration, which has the mandate to collect drug interdiction intelligence overseas. The terms of DEA's intelligence collection charter specifically prohibit the Customs Service from such activity; however, DEA is supported by the CIA, NSA, and various of the Defense Department intelligence agencies.

#### II. Background

The area of intelligence gathering, analysis, and subsequent transmittal from the various collecting agencies to the interdiction agencies is of particular concern to the subcommittee because of the potential for system failures. We have taken testimony from Customs Service witnesses which specifically indicates that there is general inefficiency in this effort.

Many possible reasons for these weaknesses can be advanced. Among them are:

- conflicting intelligence collection priorities;
- inefficient processing of time-sensitive intelligence;
- inadequate means by which to transmit or store classified information;
- incomplete understanding of the type of information required for the interdiction mission; and,
- lack of sympathy for the interdiction function.

Customs is in the unenviable position of making almost all of its "hits" based only on routine surveillance. These are called "cold hits", and obviously are the least efficient drug interdiction method. Clearly, if there is time-sensitive intelligence (called tactical intelligence) available which would assist Customs in positioning scarce interdiction resources, this must be passed to them in a timely manner.

III. Witnesses

November 14: representatives from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency

November 16: representatives from the Department of State, U. S. Customs Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and U. S. Coast Guard